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THIS IS THE TRUTH

When it became known that the leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, Hon. John Bracken, has resigned as chief of the party due to ill-health, there was a flood of rumors that this may have been caused by the supposed critical rumblings within the party over his leadership especially since only a short time prior to the official announcement of his resignation stories were heard along Parliament Hill about a possible national convention being summoned by the 35 man national executive of this party either to confirm Bracken or pick another leader.

However, well informed circles backstage in this capital deny any such plans ever having been even considered. The truth is said to be that Mr. Bracken had been examined by some of Canada's best known medical men only a couple of days or so prior to his resignation and these physicians were quite blunt in saying that he would have to go easy on work if he wanted to prolong his life, with this report hinting that retirement from such strenuous activities as leading a national political party might be essential. Indeed the story along Parliament Hill states that, while the exact nature of the illness has not been disclosed as yet, it is of a serious nature.

Furthermore, Mr. Bracken, who is 65 is known to have desired to continue in his post for some time but his resignation was caused by unavoidable factors due to ill-health. In other words, well-informed sources here discredit entirely those stories about supposed dissatisfaction within the party with his leadership as bringing about this political bombshell. It is simply not true they are most emphatic.

MONEY TO BURN

Another price boost will raise the cost of coal for Canadians, it is reported here, and supplies may not be too plentiful next winter, depending upon a number of developments, particularly the weather, with the hint being that the fuel problem may really be a problem when the cold weather arrives.

In addition, it is learned here in official quarters that during the first half of 1948 the production of coal in Canada increased to 8,502,952 tons as against 6,649,700 tons in the similar period of last year but imports of coal have dropped to 11,379 tons as compared with 11,688,072 tons in the first half of the year or 2 per cent down over last year during the same period, though the demand is greater than ever for such supplies.

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DON'T WORRY — YET

It is quite correct that the Canadian railways have been obliged to pay a total of approximately 76,500,000 annually as a result of the wage increases granted recently to their workers and this has been to offset by all sorts of reports about possible boosts in freight and passenger charges coming soon in the wake of this added cost of railway operation. However, observers here in this capital are now inclined to believe that any new application by the railways for increases to offset the new costs may not bring quickly higher charges for such transportation services, judging from experience in the past. Such high freight and passenger charges may take months before they may be established if they are ever granted, observers hold, at least as far as any comparative large increases are concerned.

The fact is known to be a view here that perhaps the Board of Transport Commissioners might co-opticly already started inquiry into the equalization of existing freight rates before entering new applications for higher rates on the basis of the recently granted wage increases to workers.

ITS ABOUT HOUSING AGAIN.

While claims may be heard that building costs are going down somewhat in Canada, a closer examination do not seem to confirm any such opinion amongst those here who should know so that it would appear that such claims are nothing more than "wishful thinking". Indeed, months ago there had been such claims of this sort about a general decline in building costs being in the making. Now it is learned here that the demand for new houses has not weakened and material or labor costs have not slumped as anticipated earlier, with the result that costs are still mounting instead of dropping and the housing situation as a whole is reportedly worse, nor better, to aggravate the whole problem. Cost of building may even go higher it is heard here now.

SPIRIT OF DPS

"They come here with tremendous hope, showing that the pioneer spirit is not dead", said Ross M. Winter, Immigration Branch of the Canadian Government, telling a meeting here that Canadians should not think of displaced persons as "down and out" since in many cases it was the better people who were forced to leave their country now. He disclosed that the Department received 33,000 applications from Canadians for the admission of relatives and of these, 30,000 are being now accepted for labor. He also described the settlement of thousands of farmers from Holland as a "unique movement". Before the flooding of Holland, they owned their own farms in the richest agricultural part of that country and they are farmers with funds who do not know what we mean by "hired help". They say they want to save as well as make a living.

the retail food field across Canada as well as make a living. were 25% higher than sales of 1947 stores operated by the same 24 firms in May, 1947. On the other hand, independent food merchants had reported little change in volume of sales from May last year or a gain of only 1.4 %

CHAIN VERSUS INDEPENDENT STORES

Latest report of the Canadian Government has revealed that in May, 1948 sales of 945 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in

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SHINE - At the
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